

EXCHANGE:
Closing Quotations:—
T.T. London 24/11/4d.
On Demand 24/11/5d.

The Hongkong Telegraph

(ESTABLISHED 1861)

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WEATHER FORECAST
OVERCAST.
Barometer 29.90.

December 11, 1917. Temperature 6 a.m. 61 3 p.m. 65
Humidity 77 63

December 11, 1916. Temperature 6 a.m. 56 3 p.m. 65
Humidity 56 53

7286 日七廿月十

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1917.

二拜禮 號一十月二十年亥庚

SINGLE COPY 10 CENTS
\$36 PER ANNUM.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

PALESTINE SUCCESS.

Surrender of Jerusalem.

London, December 10.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Buxton Law announced that Jerusalem, after being surrounded, had surrendered.

The Announcement in Parliament.

London, December 10.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Buxton Law stated that General Allenby reported that on the 8th instant he attacked the enemy's positions to the south and west of Jerusalem. Welsh and Home County troops, advancing from the direction of Bethlehem, drove back the enemy, and, passing Jerusalem on the east, established themselves on the Jerusalem-Jericho road. At the same time, London infantry and dismounted yeomanry attacked strong enemy positions to the west and north-west of Jericho and established themselves astride the Jerusalem-Shechem road. The Holy City being thus isolated was surrendered to General Allenby (Lord cheers). British political officers, together with the British Governor and accompanied by British, French, Italian and Mohammedan representatives, were on the way to safeguard the city and the Holy Places. General Allenby proposed to enter the city officially tomorrow, accompanied by the commanders of the French and Italian contingents and the heads of the French Political Mission. The capture of Jerusalem had been to some degree delayed owing to the care which had been taken to avoid damage to the sacred places in and around the city—(Cheers).

THE WESTERN FRONT.

British Repulse German Raids.

London, December 10.

Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—We repulsed raids to the south-west of La Bassée and to the east of Kleinmillebeke.

The Battle of Guns.

London, December 10.

A French communique states:—The artillery struggle is occasionally violent on the right bank of the Meuse in the region of Les Chambrettes, and in Upper Alsace.

Germany's Aerial Strength.

London, December 10.

Reuter's correspondent at the French Headquarters states:—According to approximately exact figures which I have just received, the German Army possesses 273 aeroplane squadrons, comprising 2,500 machines. The squadrons are divided into one hundred artillery spotters, eighty scouts, twenty-three bombers and forty chasers. There are thirty battleplane squadrons for the protection of the bombers. The German output of aeroplanes is reported to be rapidly increasing.

THE HALIFAX DISASTER.

Mansion House Fund Opened.

London, December 10.

The Lord Mayor has opened a Mansion House Fund for sufferers in the disaster at Halifax. Subscriptions will be immediately cabled to Canada. His Majesty the King has contributed £1,000.

Casualties and Damage.

London, December 10.

An official message from Canada says it is now estimated that as a result of the Halifax disaster there are 2,000 dead, 3,000 injured and 25,000 destitute. The damage is estimated at \$5,000,000, and the need of assistance is great and urgent.

PORTUGUESE AFFAIRS.

A Revolutionary Committee Formed.

London, December 10.

Reuter's correspondent at Lisbon states that a Revolutionary Committee has been formed, consisting of General Pass, Senhor Machado Santos and Captain Felizardo Costa. Senhor Rodriguez Bettencourt will be Premier and Interim President.

Food Difficulties the Root Cause.

London, December 10.

The news from Lisbon is so belated and distorted that it is impossible to understand the sequence of events. Food difficulties seem to be largely the original cause of the trouble, by which certain politicians, discontented with the existing regime, have profited to overthrow the Government. With the assistance of a portion of the Army and Navy, all trains were stopped and Ministers quietly arrested by military officers. The Premier, Senhor Affonso Costa, was travelling to Lisbon from Paris, but on learning of the Revolution he went to Oporto, which is seemingly quiet. The Revolutionaries talk of dissolving Parliament. One fact predominates amidst many obscurities, namely, that the change of government involves no change in policy towards the Allies.

THE MAN-POWER QUESTION.

Age-Limit May be Raised to Forty-Five Years.

London, December 10.

Man-power has again become the chief topic and a big debate thereon is expected in the House of Commons on Tuesday. It is understood that the Cabinet has been considering Sir Austen Chamberlain's recruiting proposals since the return of Mr. Lloyd George.

Lobbyists are of the opinion that the military age may be raised to forty-five years, with the most stringent coming out in war industries and luxury trades. It is pointed out that the release of the German armies on the Russian Front has raised a particularly difficult problem, which is not simply fixed by the necessity of helping Italy. It is stated that General von Hindenburg has not less than 200,000 men on the British salient at Cambrai, which was only saved from annihilation by the fine staff work and the heroic exploits of the heavily outnumbered British. Telegrams from Holland still speak of troops being poured westward.

The Times says that by the all-plausible elimination of the Russians, the military situation is being turned to the temporary advantage of the enemy, and that during the next few months we may have to face dangers more formidable than those of 1914. The Daily Chronicle says the situation on the Western Front makes it impossible to send any more Divisions to Italy.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSIAN ARMISTICE.

British Ambassador's Outspoken Utterance.

London, December 10.

According to Reuter's correspondent at Petrograd, Sir George Buchanan, the British Ambassador, in receiving representatives of the Russian Press, welcomed the opportunity to appeal to the Russian democracy against those who had wilfully misrepresented the policy of Britain. He assured them of British sympathy for the Russian people, who were worn out with the heavy sacrifices of the war and the general disorganisation which was an inevitable consequence of a great political upheaval like the Revolution. "We bear them no grudge, and there is not a word of truth in the reports that we are contemplating any coercive or punitive measures in the event of their making a separate peace. The fact that the Council of the Peoples' Commissaries is opening negotiations with the enemy without previous consultation with the Allies is a breach of the agreement of September, 1914, of which we have a right to complain. We cannot for one moment admit the validity of their contention that the Treaty was concluded with an autocratic Government and can have no binding force on a democracy by which that Government has been replaced, as such a principle, once adopted, would undermine the stability of all international agreements. But while we repudiate this new doctrine, we do not desire to induce an unwilling Ally to continue to contribute her share to the common effort by an appeal to Treaty rights. There are still higher principles on which we might appeal—principles fully recognised by the Council of the Peoples' Commissaries. There are those of a democratic peace—a peace which accords with the wishes of smaller and weaker nationalities and which repudiates the idea of extracting plunder from conquered enemies under the name of war indemnities or of incorporating in great Empires the territories of reluctant populations. Such, broadly speaking, is the peace that my Government, equally with the Russian democracy, desires to see secured to the world. The Council of the Peoples' Commissaries are mistaken in thinking that they can execute this peace by asking for an immediate armistice, to be followed by an agreement. They are putting the cart before the horse. The Allies, on the contrary, desire to arrive first at a general agreement in harmony with their declared aims and then to secure an armistice. So far, not a word has been said by any German statement showing that the ideals of the Russian democracy are shared by the German Emperor or his Government. It is with the German autocracy and not the German people that negotiations for an armistice are being conducted. Is it likely that the Emperor William, when once he knows that the Russian Army has ceased to exist as a fighting force, will be disposed to subscribe to a democratic and durable peace, such as the Russian people desire? The peace he desires is a German Imperialistic peace. Though the Allies cannot send representatives to the armistice negotiations, they are ready, as soon as a stable Government has been constituted and recognised by the Russian people as a whole, to examine with that Government the aims of the war and the possible conditions of a just and durable peace. Meanwhile, they are rendering Russia the most effective assistance by holding up the bulk of the German Armies on their respective fronts.

Armistice with Russo-Rumanian Armies

London, December 10.

A German official wireless message states:—We have signed an armistice with the Russo-Rumanian Armies between the Dniester and the mouth of the Danube.

A Significant Comment.

London, December 10.

Reuter's correspondent at Petrograd states that the Maximilian Government newspaper, *Pravda*, in the course of a significant article, indicates that the Russian people will never consent to German conquests of Courland, Lithuania and Poland.

A Regrettable Circumstance.

London, December 10.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Balfour confirmed the report that the Rumanian Army had been obliged, by uncontrollable circumstances, to conclude an armistice.

THE ITALIAN FRONT.

The Austrian Emperor's Anxiety.

London, December 10.

Reuter's correspondent at the Italian Headquarters, writing on the evening of the 2nd instant, says the Emperor Karl is again on the Trentino Front and is most anxious about the Italian resistance. The present pause is bad for the Austrians who cannot keep a large Army equipped on the Asiago Plateau during the winter and must soon withdraw to winter quarters or desperately seek a decision.

Good Work by the Italians.

London, December 10.

An Italian official message states:—The enemy gained possession of trenches to the east of Capofite with a small garrison, after a hand-to-hand struggle. Our counter-attack retook the entire position, putting to flight numerous enemy supports. Our batteries shelled enemy masses in the Of Della Barretta and Mount Tombe region. The Navy destroyed a bridge between Vianello and Sacca during intense traffic.

"SILVER" BULLETS.

London, December 10.

Applications for National War Bonds received by the Bank of England up to the 8th instant amount to £161,424,000, while applications received by the Post Office up to the 1st instant amount to £274,000. War Savings Certificates sold to the 1st instant total £131,628,000.

THE FINNISH REPUBLIC.

London, December 10.

Reuter's correspondent at Helsingfors says that the President of the Senate has notified the Powers of the proclamation of the Finnish Republic. He adds that the Finns can no longer be dependent upon Russia, whose rule is leading to famine and chaos.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

BRITAIN'S WAR DETERMINATION.

A Counter-Blast to Lord Lansdowne.

London, December 10.

Lord Robert Cecil, interviewed by Reuter, and asked about certain points of apparent similarity between Lord Lansdowne's letter and President Wilson's message to Congress, said:—I see it is being alleged, with a certain degree of plausibility, that there are many points on which Lord Lansdowne agrees with President Wilson's message. That may be so, but in the case of President Wilson's message one reads through every line of it not only determination to win but certainty of victory. President Wilson's message has the inspiration of leadership which Lord Lansdowne's letter lacks. This has led to what I believe to be a complete misconception of Lord Lansdowne's letter, which has been thought to indicate some weakening of determination on the part of this country and it is possible that it may produce an impression of a change of attitude. I believe any such impression to be a profound delusion. I know it to be so as far as the British Government is concerned and I believe that the people as a whole, including Lord Lansdowne himself, are more determined than ever to bring the war to a victorious conclusion. The fundamental evil in Germany is State idolatry. The State is above religion and everything else. It has been well described by Otto Kahn, himself of German origin, as "a demoniacal obsession of power-worship and world domination." That is at the bottom of what we complain of. The submarine and other outrages committed by the enemy during the war are all the outcome of a condition by which no laws of morality are binding if they are against the State. That is really the foundation of all the trouble with the Germans. As long as the governing classes are infected with this doctrine, there will be no limit to their wickedness and cruelties that will in time utterly undermine their civilisation. That is what President Wilson has said over and over again.

An Interesting Speech.

London, December 10.

Unusual interest is being centred in Mr. A. Quilts' speech at Birmingham to-morrow, as the occasion affords him an opportunity of defining the attitude of himself and his followers on Lord Lansdowne's letter and also on other important war issues which have recently emerged.

THE WAR OUTLOOK.

General German Offensive in the West Foreshadowed.

London, December 10.

A message from Washington says the War Secretary's weekly review of the war anticipates a general German offensive on the Western Front and says America's military efforts must therefore be speeded up. Germany has concentrated all available guns, munitions and men in the West, where there is a relatively greater German force than at any time during the war. The enemy is also concentrating extremely heavily on the Asiago Plateau. The fall energy of the Allies will be demanded to keep the Austro-Germans from the lateral valleys of Fiemme and Caden, leading to the main Brenna Valley and the plains below.

EARLIER TELEGRAMS.

RUSSIAN PEOPLE DISFAVOUR PEACE.

London, December 9.

There are indications that masses of Russians are becoming increasingly disgusted with the Bolshevik methods. All parties, except the Maximilians, have boycotted the Municipal elections in Petrograd. The Constituent Assembly meets in a week but will be a farce as the Maximilians will certainly dissolve it unless they have a majority. Meanwhile the Central Committees and most of the Socialist and Peasant parties have issued a manifesto declaring against separate peace and denouncing the Maximilians' high-handedness in negotiating a separate armistice without the approval of the people or consulting the Allies. The armistice it says, is therefore not binding.

The chief Maximilian delegate at the negotiations announces that the Germans agreed not to transfer troops to other fronts but refused to give a binding undertaking. The delegate naively complains that they displayed no enthusiasm over the Russian proposals for the fraternisation of the men in order to make arrangements overriding the Generals.

U. S. NAVAL PROPOSALS.

Washington, December 10.

Mr. Daniels, Secretary of the Navy, in his annual report asks a budget for the coming year of one billion dollars, but explains that it will be necessary to ask for additional funds as the Congressional Session proceeds.

The following are the naval increases from 1st January: Naval force, officers and men, from 19,500 to 325,000. Reserve, officers and men from a few hundreds only to 49,000. Monthly expenditure from \$8,000,000 to \$90,000,000. Ships in commission from 200 to over 1,000. American patrol stations have been authorised abroad and will be operating in 1918. Secretary Daniels suggests an international navy after the war to keep universal peace, each Power assigning units thereto in proportion to its wealth and population and thereby obviating competitive programmes of costly naval construction.

TRANQUILITY IN PORTUGAL.

Madrid, December 10.

The Spanish Minister at Lisbon has sent a message stating that tranquillity has been restored. The Revolutionary Committee in a manifesto affirm their determination to stand alongside Great Britain and the other Allies and fulfil Portugal's international obligations. Senhor Machado will temporarily remain President of the Republic but Senhor Pimentado remains his after the revolutionary cabinet has been formed.

(Continued on page 8.)

AN ELECTRIC BOAT.

Germans Revive an Old Device

London, Nov. 3.—The Ag-

mirally announces that an attack was made to-day on British vessels patrolling the Belgian coast by an electrically controlled high-speed boat. The attack was defeated and the boat was destroyed.

Washington, Nov. 3.—Use by the Germans of "an electrically controlled boat" (if the Belgian coast was taken here to mean that a device similar to the radio-controlled torpedo with which the United States has been experimenting for some time has been developed by German engineers to supplement their land batteries along the coast. The fact that the boat was destroyed by the British gunners does not, however, suggest a similar fate for the American device.

The theory of distant control of boats, torpedoes or airplanes through radio apparatus is an old one. In this country basic patents were obtained by Rear Admiral Fisk approximately twenty years ago. No practical application of the theory to boats or torpedoes was on record, however, until Mr. John Hays Hammond, Jr., began his experiments and worked out the plan with which the Government has been experimenting. Congress appropriated nearly a million dollars for the purchase of the Hammond patents and a joint army-navy board, headed by Major General Leonard Wood, was appointed to pass upon the device before it should be taken over. The outbreak of the war prevented any publication of the development of the project.

The Hammond device as originally demonstrated was applied to a swift motor boat. From a shore station the inventor was able to send the motorboat in any direction by the use of a radio-telegraph key. The little craft skimmed far out, almost out of sight stopped, turned back, circled about a schooner that was passing and then returned to its dock. The only person aboard was a watchman posted forward, who did not touch the machinery. The boat was under absolute control from shore.

Presumably this is what the Germans have worked out as an added protection for the shallow waters of the Belgian coast. The British employ special monitors for patrol work there. They are constructed with shallow draft and have outside air chambers, or "bladders," as the navy knows them, to make them safe from submarine attack. These and the shallow water make them virtually immune from under-water assault.

Experts here think probably the Germans equipped a high-speed motorboat with a heavy explosive charge similar to a torpedo and hoped to drive it against the side of the British ships. For obvious reasons nothing can be said as to how the United States proposes to use its radio-control plans. It was never intended, however, to use a surface boat, so the German experience has no bearing.

DON'T FORGET.

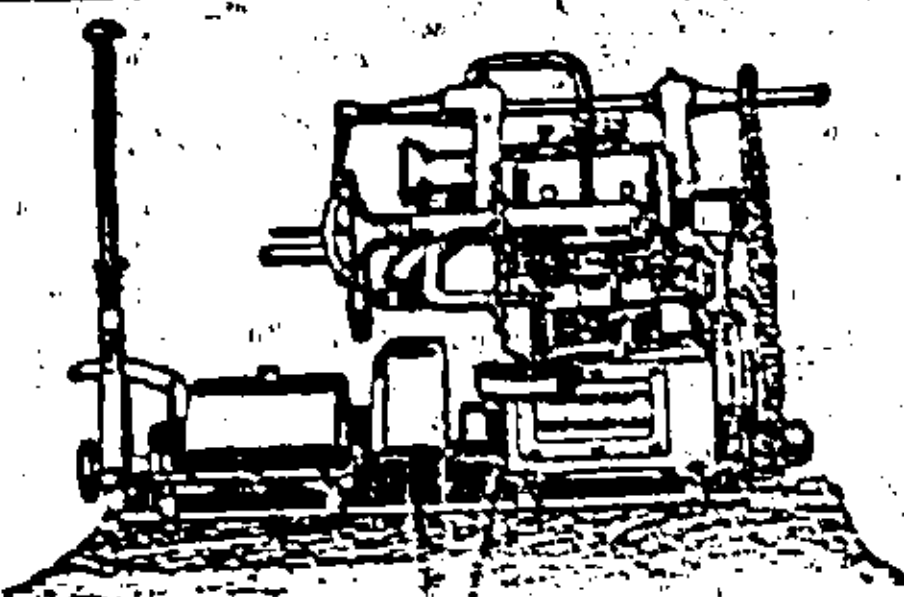
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Victoria Theatre—9.15 p.m.
Bijou Theatre—9.15 p.m.
New Hongkong Cinema—9.15 p.m.

TO-MORROW

Victoria Theatre—9.15 p.m.
Bijou Theatre—9.15 p.m.
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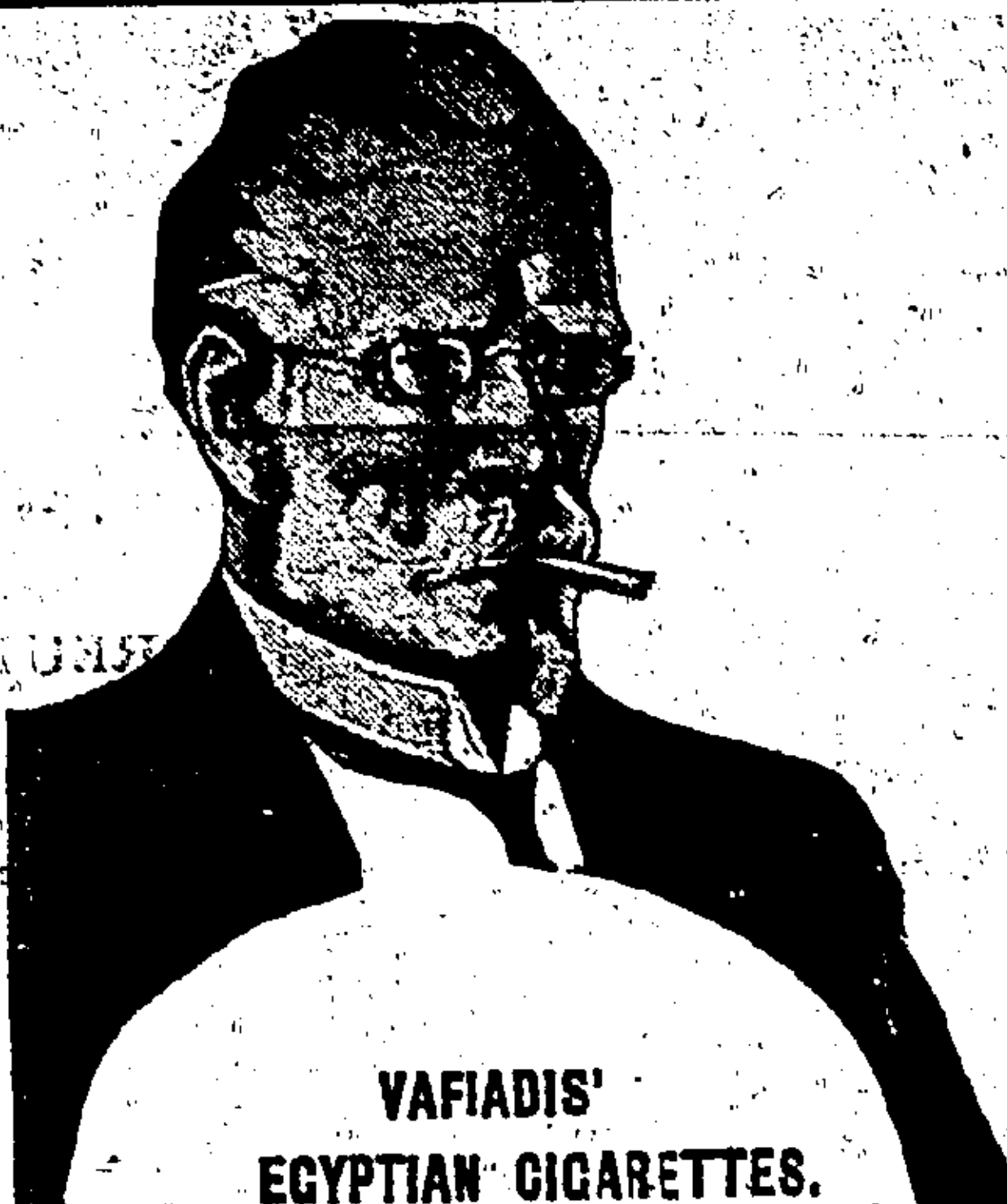
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Extra Fine (Grand Format)	50	2.35
Nectar	50	2.35
Yildiz	25	1.10
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Non Plus Ultra	100	3.60
"	50	1.85
"	20	.75
Superfine	100	2.40
"	50	1.20

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GENERAL NEWS.

International Footballer Killed.

News was received in Black-
burn recently that Gannar Edwin
Latherton, R.F.A., the well-known
forward of the Blackburn Rovers
Club, was killed in action on
October 14. He played for
England against Ireland in 1913,
against Wales in the following
season, and also in the last
inter-league match against Scot-
land.

No Alien Control of Oilfields.

Regulation 306b of the Defence
of the Realm Regulations has
been amended so as to prohibit,
without the consent of Board of
Trade, the transfer to an alien or
a foreign controlled company of
any interest in an oilfield. A
further amendment provides that
the mines mentioned in the
regulation shall be "mines
wherever situated," and not
"mines situated in Great Britain."

An Appeal for the Bulldog Club.

An appeal is being made for
£5,000 to enable the work of the
Bulldog Club in Edgware-road,
to be carried on. During the
last 18 months the Club has
fed 390,000 men and has
provided sleeping accommodation
for 62,400. In the annex for
ex-service men, which was opened
five months ago, 2,000 men have
been served with meals each
month, 2,000 men have been
issued for sleeping accommoda-
tion, and employment has
been found for 800 men. The
Bulldog Club is the only club
in which it is situated where men
can find rest, good food, and
social intercourse at a cost within
their means. Donations, which
are urgently requested, should be
sent to the Hon. Treasurer, the
Bulldog Club, 264-266, Edgware-
road, W.

The Jack Cornwell, V.C., Fund.

The Jack Cornwell, V.C.,
Memorial Fund Committee re-
cently presented to Sir Arthur
Stanley, chairman of the "Star
and Garter" Committee, and
Sir Robert Hudson a cheque for
£4,600 for the endowment of
rooms in the "Star and Garter,"
as a second instalment of the
fund, which has been raised at
the instance of the Navy
League, from the school
children of Great Britain. The
first instalment of £18,000
was presented to the Queen at
Buckingham Palace on February
9. In addition to £22,800 thus
handed over to the committee of
the "Star and Garter" Home,
£500 has been set aside from the
fund to provide a substantial in-
crease in the income of the boy's
mother during her lifetime. That
sum will revert to the "Star and
Garter" Home on the death of
Mrs. Cornwell. In round figures
7,000,000 children have contrib-
uted to the fund, and whenever the
amount subscribed exceeded \$1
a framed picture of Jack Corn-
well has been presented to the
school.

Rahlehen Examinations.

The Journal of the Royal
Society of Arts for October 26, in
reviewing the examinations of
1917, gives an account of the
society's examination held for
the benefit of prisoners of war and
men interned abroad, who wel-
come such relief from the infor-
mation of their existence. At
Rahlehen (the Journal says)
entries were received for both
divisions of the examination,
but unfortunately the papers
for the Second Division were
stopped by the German Censor
(though a promise had been
made that they should be passed
unopened), on the ground that
they contained political references.
This was unlikely true, for the
examiner in proof-reading had
selected for treatment. Cor-
respondence with the United
States Ambassador respecting the
Treatment of British Prisoners of
War in Germany. It must be
frankly admitted that such a
paper, however valuable for Eng-
lish candidates, ought not to have
been sent to a prisoner camp in
Germany, and that the German
Censor was quite justified in re-
pressing it. But the censor's
action, the editor says, which
was quite laudable.

GENERAL NEWS.

Death of Inventor of Finger Prints.

The death occurred recently at Reading, at the age of 84, of Sir William James Herschel, grandson of the distinguished astronomer whose name he bore. Sir William Herschel had claims to distinction apart from his relationship to the astronomer, for he was an eminent member of the Indian Civil Service and the discoverer of the finger-print system of identification. It was in 1859 that he hit on this idea, and, after proving the individuality of the prints and their persistence for fifteen years, he initiated the system for civil purposes in Bengal in 1878.

A Suffragist in Bankruptcy.

An adjourned sitting was held in the Bankruptcy Court recently before Mr. Registrar Mellor, for the public examination of Miss Evelyn Sharp, of John-street, Bedford-row, W.O. The receiving order was obtained, on the petition of the King, by the Attorney General, and the debtor was adjudged bankrupt on June 7. The only proof of debt (£58 10s. 10d.) was for unpaid income-tax and costs. At the first meeting of creditors it was stated that the debtor did not admit the legality of the petitioning creditor's claim, because, in her view, it was unconstitutional to levy taxes without representation. When the case was called, Mr. J. B. Knight, Assistant Official Receiver, asked that the examination be adjourned sine die, on the ground that the debtor had refused to lodge the statutory statement of her affairs. In answer to the Registrar, the debtor said that she could not give a list of her liabilities because they did not exist, and she could not give a list of her assets, because it was against her conscience. His Honour adjourned the examination sine die.

Soldiers on the Land.
At a meeting of the General Committee of the British Empire Land Settlement Propaganda League the following resolution was unanimously adopted on the motion of Sir Frederick Milner, Bt., P.C., a vice-president of the League:—"That this meeting is of opinion that the Government should immediately avail itself of the co-operation and assistance of members of all recognized associations and societies who are desirous of placing their services at their disposal, their experience in connexion with the details in regard to settlement of ex-Servicemen and others on lands of the United Kingdom, extending over a number of years, being of considerable value to the Government Department which will deal with the whole question of land settlement." Other resolutions dealt with the failure of the Government to provide for "750,000 of our men known to be desirous of settling in the country districts" and with the necessity of enabling soldiers and sailors whose lungs have been affected by gas attacks to reside in dry climates overseas. It was decided to arrange immediately for a public campaign.

The Future of the Land.
Professor James Long was the guest of the Political and Economic Circle at a dinner at the National Liberal Club, and gave an address on "The Future of the Land." Mr. G. K. Chesterton, who presided, said the land problem had tragic importance just now, and was deeply connected with all the ideals for which the club stood. This war was bringing back some of their primitive ideas and a conception of the field, as well as the forger, in the ideal of liberty. It was a grave misfortune that for a period the Liberal ideal, the civic ideal, had been divorced from the land, and for those who took a long-view of history there was no reason for the divorce. Professor Long put forward the propositions that no man had a right to employ land for his personal pleasure when it was required for food; that tenant-farmers should have freedom, subject to the natural laws of good farming; that increased increase in value should accrue to the community; that more cottages, with an acre or half an acre of land, should be built and let at economic rents, as in Ireland; and that allotments should be increased.

NOTICES.

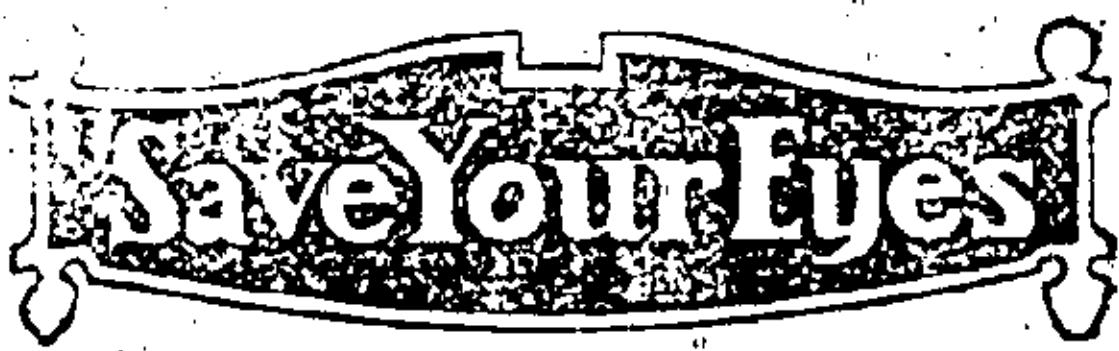
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GENERAL NEWS.

Objector's Weekly Payment.

Joseph Sault, formerly an officer in the King's Royal B. As, who resigned his commission and became a conscientious objector after hearing the 30th chapter of Isaiah (which begins "Woe to the rebellious children") read in a church, applied for further exemption at Northampton Appeal Tribunal. The case had been previously adjourned to ascertain what sacrifices he was willing to make. He was now granted two months' exemption on promising to pay £1 a week to the Northampton Hospital and not to attempt to dissuade others from joining the forces.

The Dockyard Case.

At Bow-street Police Court, before Sir John Dickinson, the hearing was continued of the case in which Eric Brotherton, manager of the Hamber Graving Dock and Engineering Company (Limited), and six other defendants (all on bail) are charged with conspiring to defraud the King of large sums of money in respect of claims for work and labour falsely pretended to have been done by the dock company in repairing H.M. ships. Further witnesses were examined as to the practice alleged to have been prevalent among the company's servants of charging against H.M. ships time spent by them on work on private ships or on the company's miscellaneous work and the hearing was adjourned.

Women Workers' Dilemma.
There is much discontent among workers at Woolwich Arsenal, who have difficulty in getting food. The shops are not

open when they go to work, and are either closed or out of supplies when they return home. The dinner hour is too short for the traders to serve the thousands of would-be customers. Apparently (says the Times of October 27) the only way in which the women can get food is to absent themselves from work in the mornings, which means loss of pay and a reduction in the output of munitions. The Workers' Union has forwarded a strong protest to the Government, and is organizing mass meetings.

Study of Portuguese.
There appears in the Times of October 27 the appeal of the "Camões Professorship" Committee, which seeks to associate with the name of the great national poet of Portugal a chair in the University of London. It is hoped that before many months have passed the Camões Chair of Portuguese will be endowed in the University of London at King's College, on the lines of the recently established Cervantes Chair of Spanish in the same institution. The proposed department will include studies in Portuguese and Brazilian history and finance, in the economic and industrial problems of Portuguese-speaking countries, their laws, banking, and monetary systems. A special departmental library will serve as a centre for Portuguese and Brazilian students resident in London, and bring them into touch with English students interested in these countries. Already a start has been made at King's College in providing instruction in Portuguese for immediate national purposes, and the War Office has expressed its high appreciation of the value of these facilities.

NOTICES.

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MASTERY OF THE ENEMY.

Mr. Bottomley's Optimism.

A luncheon was given by the members of the Aldwych Club to Mr. Horatio Bottomley at the Connaught Rooms recently.

Sir Henry Dalziel, M.P., who presided, said for various reasons he had not been quite so optimistic in the past as he had been during the last few days.

Mr. Bottomley, in replying to the toast of his health, spoke of the lessons he had learnt from his recent visit to the Western Front, and the optimistic spirit of the men. On the Western Front we had the absolute mastery of the enemy. The men believed, as he believed, as every man must realise, that on the Western Front where the war began, there it would end. If they believed him, the end was very near indeed. We should not trouble about Russia. Germany might be playing for a counter to bargain with. He wished he were free to say all that was told him and all that about him. They must read between the lines when he said that in the opinion of everybody on the Western Front, from the highest command, and he emphasised the phrase, down to the humblest Tommy in the ranks, the belief was universal—he weighed his words when he said it—that we might be able to sit down to our dinner at Chiswick with a peace on earth and a good will towards men once again. (Cheers.)

To place the Camoens Professorship and Department of Portuguese on a permanent basis the sum of about £15,000 is required. Further particulars may be obtained from the Honorary Secretary, Professor I. Gollancz, King's College, Strand, W. O. Donations should be made payable to the Hon. E. C. Parsons, Hon. Treasurer, Camoens Chair of Portuguese.

NOTICES.

KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY.

THE Public is hereby notified that on and from WEDNESDAY, December 12th, the departure of express trains from Kowloon and Canton will be as follows:—

	Down.	Up.
Leave Canton	7.25	3.20
Leave Kowloon	8.05	2.50

The mid-day express trains on SATURDAYS and SUNDAYS are cancelled.

For further particulars see time tables.
By Order,
H. P. WINSLOW,
Manager,
British Section,
Kowloon-Canton Railway.
WEN TEH CHANG,
Managing Director,
Chinese Section,
Canton-Kowloon Railway.
8th December, 1917.

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M. MANUK,
Secretary.

Dated 1st day of December, 1917.

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1 Bot. Orange Curacao.

Case No. 3.—\$32.

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The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1917.

THE UNREST IN SPAIN AND PORTUGAL.

Judging from the telegrams to hand from Reuter's correspondent at Lisbon, the situation there is, or at least has been very recently, of a very serious character. Details are lacking, but there is sufficient to justify one in looking upon the matter in a very grave light. The news, in regard to the unsettled conditions, both in Portugal and Spain, is not indeed surprising, as there have been many indications in both countries of late pointing to the fact that all was by no means well. Owing, however, to the strict censorship of political news, very meagre accounts of what was happening were allowed to leave either Spain or Portugal. Sufficient details, however, are known in regard to the ferment in Spain to make it perfectly clear that the trouble brewing there was chiefly owing to the disturbing actions of the Army, whose sympathies, contrary to those of the Court and the Government, were favourably disposed towards the Central Powers—a state of affairs brought about largely by the incessant and insidious activities of Teutonic agents who have ever since the beginning of the war—and probably before then—been engaged in intriguing in one form or another for the purpose of siding as far as possible, the Central Powers and of preventing any assistance being given to the Allied cause, so far as Spain could legitimately perform it without infringing her neutrality. It is also known that of late the cause of Republicanism has been fostered assiduously and with no little success in Spain. Throughout all the ferment, however, both the Court and the Government appear to have been able, not only to control the situation, but materially to strengthen their position.

In regard to Portugal, it would appear that the present crisis is more economic than political. In Portugal and Spain, as elsewhere, the economic situation brought about by the rigors of the war, and more particularly by the enemy's submarine campaign, has had a very depressing effect, owing to the scarcity of foodstuffs and raw materials essential for industrial purposes. And with the unexpected prolongation of the war, the hardships have naturally increased, and the disturbing elements that are ever ready to take advantage of such conditions have been more than usually active. For some little time past the situation in Spain has been comparatively quiet, while in Portugal, as events prove, it has been gradually getting more serious until now, to all appearances, the country is on the eve of a grave crisis. The telegrams state that "after three days' fighting between the troops faithful to the Government and revolutionaries under General Paes, the Government, in order to avoid disastrous dissensions in the Army, has proposed a cessation of hostilities and has resigned." This looks ominous, and it is difficult to differentiate what has taken place from civil war. With more light on the situation, it will probably be found that the upheaval is, as we have conjectured, political and economic but that its most serious issue has reference to the ways and means of best conducting Portugal's part in the great struggle. It must be said that if this is the case the measures being resorted to seem to us as alarmingly drastic. We read of infantry, cavalry and artillery regiments "supporting the revolutionaries," of Rocio railway station having been damaged by hand grenades, of Lisbon being under military control, and of a cruiser and a torpedo boat destroyer firing against the city.

This all points to a very serious upheaval, and details therefore will be awaited with deep interest and with not a little anxiety. It is sincerely to be hoped that whoever handles the reins of Government, the most important issue of all—Portugal's part alongside the Allies in the determination to defeat the Central Powers—will be kept steadily in mind and that no internal friction or political differences will be allowed to stand in the way of Portugal continuing to perform her duty along with the Allied Powers. Indeed, the latest news to hand points to this course as likely to be followed, as it is stated that "the Revolutionary Committee, in a manifesto, affirms its determination to stand alongside Great Britain and the other Allies and to fulfil Portugal's international obligations." This, together with the statement that "Lisbon is tranquil," is as satisfactory a solution as the very serious aspect of affairs warranted one to expect, and it is to be hoped that the tranquillity that is said to be manifesting itself in the capital will speedily spread throughout the country and enable Portugal properly to perform the important duties that still await her in fulfilment of her pledges to the Entente Allies.

The Russian Situation.

Though it cannot be said that Russian affairs present a more favourable aspect from the standpoint of the Allies, there is much that points to the fact that the Maximalists, who are responsible for the undignified position in which Russia finds herself to-day, are not to be allowed to have matters entirely their own way. There are indications, it is reported, that the Russian masses are "increasingly disgusted with the Bolshevik methods." It is, evident, however, that as matters stand the Maximalists are the only party which has the power forcibly to carry out their wishes, and it is even stated that unless the Maximalists are able to command a majority in the Constituent Assembly which meets this week "they will certainly dissolve it." It is thus clear that the Maximalists are more concerned about the propagation of their own pet Socialistic theories and of having their own way, no matter at what cost or of what infringement of the rights of other sections of their fellow countrymen, than of having at heart the true welfare of the country. It would therefore seem to be imperative that this power which the Maximalists possess should be taken from them as soon as possible. Happily, there are reasons for believing that this may be effected, sooner than seemed likely to be the case, for it must be admitted that ever since the overthrow of the Provisional Government, the Maximalists have wielded paramount power. If it is the case, as has been reported, that General Kaledin and General Korniloff have joined forces with a view to joint action, it should be merely a matter of time—and a very brief time at that—for a period being put to the mischief being committed by M. Lenin and his fellow Maximalists.

Britain and Russia.

Another significant feature of the Russian situation is opened up in the inspiring statement made by Sir George Buchanan, the British Ambassador at Petrograd, in his remarks on receiving representatives of the Russian Press. Succinctly and ably, Sir George explains the British attitude towards the Russian nation in the present crisis, and all will endorse what he says regarding that attitude. Particularly striking and equally sound are his observations regarding Germany's attitude towards Russia, for there can be no doubt that there can be no satisfactory or enduring arrangement come to by an authority such as that of Germany and the so-called Socialistic body that is arrogating to itself the right to speak and act on behalf of the Russian nation.

A Complaint Renewed.

At the risk of being wearisome, we would again call the attention of the sanitary authorities to the abominable stench which is to be encountered at Glenelly, evidently through a defective drain or something of the kind. This is at least the third occasion on which we have made mention of this nuisance, and so far as we can observe, no steps whatever have been taken to remedy it. If a sanitary inspector or other official would take a walk round to the locality he would soon become convinced of the fact that something is decidedly not as it should be. The obnoxious smells infect the whole area from the beginning of Glenelly pathway at Cairne Road to the bend leading to the Catholic Club. There are residences in the locality, and, apart from the general nuisance caused, these odours must be the reverse of beneficial to public health. Perhaps, on the third time of asking, something will be done in the matter.

A Literary Evening.

The fortnightly meeting of the Union Church Guild will be held in the Lecture Hall, Kennedy Road, to-morrow at 9 p.m. This will be a literary evening and a paper on "Tennyson" will be read by Mrs. Macdonald. Musical and other illustrations from his works will be rendered by friends. The meeting will be open to the public.

DAY BY DAY.

THE MAN WHO DOES NOT KNOW WHEN TO DIE, DOES NOT KNOW HOW TO LIVE.—Ruskin.

To-morrow's Anniversary.
To-morrow is the anniversary of the Battle of Plevna (1877).

The Dollar.
The opening rate of the dollar on demand to-day was 2s. 11.7/8d. The closing rate will be found on Page 1.

Stolen Zinc.
Two youths were each ordered to receive ten strokes by Mr. Dyer Hall for stealing two zinc slabs. They were found bargaining with a marine hawk.

Dairy Farm Milk.
A Chinese, charged before Mr. J. R. Wood, at the Police Court this morning, with stealing a bottle of Dairy Farm milk, was sent to prison for a month.

The Colony's Health.
Last week there were six cases of diphtheria notified in the Colony, of which three terminated fatally. There were also three occurrences of enteric fever (one fatal). The sufferers were all Chinese save one of the enteric cases—a Spaniard.

Football Match.
In the 2nd Division of the League, the R.E. Reserves met St. Joseph's College on Saturday, on the H.K.F.C. ground, Happy Valley. Kick-off 2.30 p.m. The R.E. Reserves will be represented by—Salter; Simonds and Orickshanks; Cuckow (Capt.), Waller and Webber; Millard, Todd, Tidy, Osborne and Baker. Will the last team players please note that no training can take place on Wednesdays and Saturdays, owing to the short working day?

The Wrong Ship.
Before Mr. A. Jyer Ball, at the Police Court this morning, a man named John Litizis was charged with being a stowaway aboard a vessel from Seattle. Defendant said he wanted to go to San Francisco, but he had got aboard the wrong boat. He thought he must have been drunk at the time. He went in a bunk where he went to sleep and at that time shed money enough to buy a ticket. Mr. R. T. Martin, chief steward of vessel, said that when two days out his "boy" told him there was something moving in a berth in the store room, known as the "glory hole." Witness went below and found defendant. He took him to the Chief Officer. The defendant did not give any trouble. Witness had seen him in Seattle. The ship filled as soon as she got into port and several passengers had to be refused a berth. His Worship said the ship was not going to San Francisco and defendant must have known it. His Worship sent him to prison for a month.

A NEGRO'S COMPLAINT.

"Treated Like a Dog."

A coal-black American negro was charged before Mr. J. E. Wood, at the Police Court this morning, with being a vagrant. Inspector Sim said that the day before yesterday defendant went to No. 2 Police Station and said he had no money, and nothing to eat, and asked what could be done for him. He (the Inspector) took him to the Sailor's Home but they could not take him in because he was not a British subject. Defendant came back to the Police Station last night and said he did not know what to do. Defendant told him that he was a sea man but had left his last ship because the Master was so cruel to him. He also said he had been to the Dutch Consul, but he would not have anything to do with him because the Master had laid a complaint against him. He did not seem to be a very satisfactory work man, for he had been discharged from several ships.

Defendant said he came from South America and left his last ship because he was treated like a dog. He had now 17 cents. His Worship discharged the man.

TO DOMINATE BRAZIL.

German Plot Revealed.

Washington, October 31.—New light was thrown on the widespread ramifications of German intrigue by the publication to-day of the State Department's revelations—that the notorious Count von Luxburg, German Charge in Buenos Aires, plotted to obtain German domination in southern Brazil.

Luxburg, whose "spurious verve" communication to the Berlin Foreign Office was made public recently by Mr. Lansing, appealed to his Government for a squadron of submarines to intimidate Latin-Americans unfriendly to the German cause, according to the new disclosures.

Publication of a dispatch from Rio de Janeiro in Buenos Aires a few days ago to the effect that translations of the Luxburg correspondence had divulged a Teutonic plot to invade southern Brazil, created a great furor in the Argentine capital.

Two more of von Luxburg's messages to the German Foreign Office from Buenos Aires were made public by Mr. Lansing. They provide official confirmation of Germany's plan to control southern Brazil, shedding light upon Teutonic intrigue in South America generally, and reveal that Luxburg appealed vainly for a squadron of submarines with which to awe some Latin-Americans and to flatter others with salutes.

These dispatches, like others that have gone before, were given out by Mr. Lansing, without discussion of their contents. The only comment was in this statement attached to the copies:

"In view of the fact that the substance of certain telegrams addressed by Count Luxburg to the German Foreign Office has been published, the Secretary of State makes public the actual text of the telegrams."

The messages follow:—"No. 63, July 7, 1917.—Our attitude towards Brazil has created the impression here that our easy-going good-nature can be counted on. This is dangerous in South America, where the people under this veneer are Indians. A submarine squadron, with full powers to me; might probably still save the situation. I request instructions as to whether, after a rupture of relations, legislation is to start for home or to remove to Paraguay or possibly Chili. The Naval Attache will doubtless go to Santiago de Chili.—Luxburg."

"No. 89, August 4, 1917.—I am convinced that we shall be able to carry through our principal political acts in South America, the maintenance of open market in Argentina and the reorganization of south Brazil equally well, whether with or against Argentina. Please cultivate friendship with Chili. The announcement of a visit of a submarine squadron to salute the President would even now exercise decisive influence on the situation in South America. Prospects excellent for wheat harvest in December.—Luxburg."

After the State Department made public the "sink without a trace" messages, which caused Argentina to hand von Luxburg his passports, the Argentine Government sent to Washington a number of the former German Minister's dispatches for decoding. Whether the two now published were among them, or were obtained by the United States at the same time it can be in possession of other telegrams forwarded to Berlin through the Swedish Legation at Buenos Aires, is not disclosed.

Several days ago press reports from Buenos Aires said a reputation had been created there by the publication of a dispatch from Rio de Janeiro saying the Brazilian Foreign Minister had made known that translations of the Luxburg messages revealed a German plot to invade Southern Brazil. The Argentine newspapers demanded then that the Government either publish the dispatches or "authorize their publication by a foreign Government."

The "reorganization" of South Brazil referred to by von Luxburg is assumed here to refer to the

NEW GERMAN CAMPAIGN.

Pressure on Switzerland.

A new attempt on the part of Germany to combine the bullying or cajoling of Switzerland with her peace propaganda is indicated by a crop of inspired articles which recently appeared simultaneously in the German Press. This outbreak is probably due to the increasingly confident attitude towards the Entente Powers which, with the growing distress in Germany, has manifested itself in Switzerland during the past year. Germany is afraid lest Switzerland may tend to gravitate in the direction of the Entente. Hence, for example, the following attempt to cast suspicion on America and France. The *Radio des Landesweitung* learns "from Switzerland" [sic] that whereas, as a result of the new coal agreement [whereby, as a matter of fact, Switzerland gets, or is supposed to get, only 200,000 tons a month instead of the 253,000 tons of the former agreement], the circumstances of Swiss trade with Germany "may be called favourable," traffic with the Entente Powers becomes daily more difficult.

"As is well known, America with incredible severity joined in the blockade measures against the neutrals. Reports of imminent complete export prohibitions have, indeed, always been denied. But is not the American Customs supervision calculated to shake our confidence? Already for some time past leading French-Swiss papers and periodicals have been publishing protests against the establishment, apparently decided upon and in execution, of a French Customs cordon against Switzerland, to the injury of the treaty relations existing between Switzerland and France. But what is the good of such protests? The spirits which you call up...

"Now comes the surprising confirmation from several sources of the fact that for a long time past the Customs supervision at the Swiss-French frontier has been conducted by an American mission and carried on by an American personnel. At present only the supervision of passenger traffic is in the hands of the French frontier guard. As to what a light this fact [sic] throws on the independence of the French officials and the French State anyone can form his own judgment. Here we are only concerned with the consequences to Switzerland arising from this state of things. As a matter of fact, these conditions are calculated to fill every Swiss with the greatest anxiety. To the great supervision of frontiers is now added the decision—its finality has not hitherto been denied—of the State Department at Washington ordering the stoppage of all export to the neutral countries of Europe. Switzerland gets thereby into an ever more difficult position. Supplies are already very short, and the somewhat belated introduction of rationing, while it may perhaps somewhat postpone their disappearance, will not avert it...

This amazing example of *suppression veri and suggestio falsi* ends with a reference to the sufferings of the hotel industry, "which Switzerland knows will, after the return of normal conditions gradually again become a great source of revenue to the country." This is pure propaganda, intended to encourage the belief that Switzerland would suffer if Germany were too badly beaten for Germans to be able to come to Swiss hotels—where, as a matter of fact, they have always been unpopular on account of their habits. Of the other lies, that about the American embargo is the least clumsy but, unfortunately for the inspired writer, Switzerland is not one of the neutral countries aimed at by the American embargo.

activities of the Hamburg Colonialization Company, in connection with the large German element already located in that section. Several months before this dispatch was written there were reports of plans for a German

TO-DAY'S MISCELLANY.

Sir George Radford, who has now for the last time "joined the majority," was one of the most regular frequenters of the National Liberal Club, says a correspondent to a Home paper. He was so often introduced as Mr. "Burrell's" collaborator in "Obiter Dicta" that the frequent reference to this rather juvenile performance became something of a bore. On one occasion when the familiar reference was made he broke out: Surely no man has ever suffered so much for so small a crime! He had an easy, pleasant outlook on life, free from cynicism but touched with humour, which made him a valued companion when he came into the smoke-room of the club, generally with a silk hat reposing somewhat on the back of his head. He was a sound and trustworthy Liberal who will be very difficult to replace.

The "Union Jack" has not three but four "crosses," says a correspondent to a Home paper. It is a law of heraldry that colour may not be placed on colour, nor metal on metal, and accordingly, at the union with Ireland, the red crosses of St. Patrick and St. George had to be "ambushed"—that is to say, marked with a narrow margin of another colour where they met the blue "field" or "ground" of St. Andrew. The red saltier of St. Patrick was accordingly marked with a white border, quite correctly, but the cross of St. George received such a generous margin as to constitute a separate white cross. Sir J. Knox Langhton once made the interesting suggestion that the fourth cross might be the cross of France, inserted to recall the traditional union between that country and ours, but the "verbal blazon" of "our national flag, which is the sole authority in matters heraldic, lends no support to this inference. Anyone who wishes to see how the crosses of St. George and the saltier of St. Patrick should be "ambushed" has only to look at Britannia's shield on the modern penny, where the borders are represented with the proper narrowness. But the penny has a mistake of its own, for St. Andrew's saltier is unaccountably omitted from Britannia's shield. Perhaps it was considered that Scotland had already a bigger share of the coin than was her due.

The armoured car of the ancients, says a correspondent, was not known as "a tank." It was called "a sow" and sometimes "a cat." Engines for throwing stones, and used in the eleventh and twelfth centuries, were called "bibles," and a kind of portable used for purposes of defence was "the war wolf." The movable engine of the ancients (the modern tank) was a covered shed fixed on wheels, and used for covering soldiers employed in work immediately in front of the enemy's lines. One of these machines was called "a cat," because under it soldiers lay in wait, like a cat for its prey. Some of these "cats" had cranes and chinks from which the archers could discharge their arrows. These were called "castellated cats." The sow was also a covered machine for the same purpose. It is said to have derived its name from the soldiers lying close together, like pigs under a sow, though another reason is given, namely, its being applied to digging and rooting up the earth. The sow was allied to by the Romans who defended the Castle of Danbar against King Edward III when she threatened that unless the English kept their "sow" better she would make her "cast bar pigs." Two machines, the one called "the boar" and the other "the sow," were employed by the Parliamentarians in the siege of Corfe Castle, Dorsetshire.

An Explosion.

Yesterday an explosion occurred in an electric feed opposite No. 2 Police Station. A result fragments of the pillar were hurled across the road, but fortunately no one was injured. The houses in the vicinity were without light for some time.

LAST NIGHT'S BOXING.

Young Ahearn Secures An Easy Victory.

The Police Reserve last night, under the direction of that indefatigable officer, Inspector Wildin, assisted by Inspector Clarke, carried through another of those grand assault-at-arms, which are events in the Colony to be eagerly anticipated, in a very successful manner. The programme, though not as exciting as many we have seen, was good and the material available was put to the best possible use, a great amount of care having evidently been spent to serve it up in attractive form. No one is more able to do this than Inspector Wildin, and it says much for his organising abilities that he catered for the public taste in such an admirable way. There was a very crowded house, there being present H. E. Hon. Mr. Oland Severn, C. M. G., the Officer Administering the Government, H. E. Major General Vectors, G. O. C., Commodore H. G. G. Sandeman, R. N., H. H. Sir William Ross Davies, K. O., Chief Justice, H. H. the Puisne Judge, Mr. Gompertz, Hon. Mr. C. McE. Messer, O.S.P., Mr. F. O. Jenkin, D. S. P. (R) and Lieut. Col. John Ward, M. P. A large crowd of soldiers and sailors was present to give support to the men of the rival camps and the show went right merrily.

There were too many bantam weight, feather weight and light weight contests for the programme to be a really exciting one, but some quite fair boxing was seen, and one or two of the men showed promise of doing something better as they got on a little and became a little more experienced in the art. This is especially so in the case of Gunner Emberton, who met Stoker Barclay in a six-round light-heavyweight contest. We understand that this was Emberton's first appearance in the ring, and from the showing he gave, it is quite likely that, with a little more study of the science of the game and a few hard fights to brace him up, he will prove a nasty opponent to many aspirants for fame in the ring. Next to the main event, his fight with Barclay should have been the most interesting of any in the programme, but Mr. W. S. Bailey, who was the referee, in our opinion mistakenly disqualified the Gunner for an alleged foul. There were few in the audience last night who would agree with the decision in this particular event and those who were in a position to see harboured no doubt that the decision was a wrong one. The fact that Barclay was the first to be cautioned for holding, and quite rightly, seemed to have been lost sight of later when Emberton appeared to be guilty of the same mistake. We say "appeared" reservedly, because we are distinctly of the opinion that Emberton was not at fault in this respect. That he was blameless when he was disqualified there is no room for doubt, and the explanation is this—that he was merely a little slovenly in breaking. That is the worst charge that can be brought against him. When getting away he was too slow in removing his arm from his antagonist's shoulder. He was not gripping that shoulder but merely resting his wrist on it, and it does not reflect any credit on Barclay that he took advantage of the decision. There was nothing more certain in the world than that Barclay in the next round would have had to give up. He was a vanquished man in the very first round and no-one knew it better than he. He was out-pointed at every move of the game and showed serious signs of wear, whereas his opponent was as fresh as when he entered the ring. Emberton has a distinctly savage drive and while he knew little of the real scientific grounding of the game, which is only to be expected having in mind that this was his first appearance in public, he had sufficient knowledge and strength to beat down Barclay's defence, which was none too good, and secure a knock-out victory had and he was no more. Both blows

not fast dealt extremely hard with him. Emberton, of whom more will be heard, is pretty raw stuff but, properly handled and moulded, he will make a name for himself. He has our sympathies for this temporary set-back. At all events last night's result will not cause him to lose any confidence in his chance of winning if Barclay has the temerity to try conclusions with him at any future date.

The Main Event.

If any were disappointed in the fight between Young Ahearn and L. S. H. Atkinson it was entirely their own fault, for it was plain to be seen after the first three seconds that Ahearn had sized his man up and knew just where he stood in relation to him. The fight was as good as won after the first two exchanges, that little smile flitting across Ahearn's face indicating, as clearly as anything could, that Atkinson's number was up. Notwithstanding that Ahearn gave away the considerable weight of 1 stone 2 lbs., it was seen from the outset that he was of a totally different school to Atkinson, who, to be frank, must only be reckoned among that class of boxer who is good and rube along in his fights on a good average. Ahearn is not and never has been one of these, ever since the time he was championed by John Bull. The amount of skill, strength, wonderful judgment and confidence he possesses will always be a source of pleasure to followers of the ring. There is nothing tawdry in what he does; he makes no errors which must afterwards be covered up at great cost to himself, and he knows, as perhaps no other boxer who has fought in Hongkong knows, how to wait the opportunity when he can give that clean knock-out so characteristic of all his performances in this Colony. These knock-outs are the cleanest things we have seen and to substantiate this one has only to look at the fallen opponent to gather the full import of the sickness of the vanquishing blow. Not once has any opponent of Young Ahearn presented that gory appearance which is the aftermath of a knock-out which has taken a gigantic effort to accomplish. Atkinson, as has been remarked before, is a good man, but not to be mentioned in the same breath as Young Ahearn, who never would be vanquished by him. Though Atkinson is the more powerful of the two in build, he is not so quick, neither does he possess such a sterling defence, nor has he a title of the science which Young Ahearn has taken years to gain.

Before the first round had been in progress many minutes, there was plenty of evidence, that Atkinson had swiftly come to the conclusion that if the fight was to be his he must get in a knock-out blow, and with this object, he waited to get in a right-hand. There was plenty of strength there, but Ahearn was far too wary and wonderfully kept his antagonist in such a position that he could not draw off to deliver anything stinging. To his chagrin, Atkinson discovered that he was being beaten at his own game, for Ahearn secured some juring blows which made him blink. The second round was pretty much the same, except that Atkinson did partially succeed in delivering a nasty drive, but Ahearn countered it to a great extent and broke its force with an impenetrable defence. It happened many times that Ahearn pretended to draw off, but recovered himself in a remarkable manner when Atkinson advanced, thinking he had an opportunity, and invariably Ahearn turned the tables. It was on one of these occasions that he snicked Atkinson on the neck, which made the latter blink with pain and down he went for eight. He never recovered, as many another has never recovered, from that deadly drive of Young Ahearn's and the fight was really won then. Atkinson was in no fighting trim when he stepped up in the third round. The power had been taken out of him and, in spite of the ministrations of his seconds, he was obviously in pain. Ahearn did not waste any time and sent him down for a count of seven. It was a tottering Atkinson who rose again, and a few seconds later two sharp blows sounded and he was no more. Both blows

WAR COMFORTS.

Canton American Red Cross Work.

The following are the contents of a case dispatched to Colonel Gordon Hall, R.A.M.C. Cairo, on November 23, by the Canton American Red Cross workers:—12 dcn. surgical swabs, 50 many-tail bandages, 100 khaki handkerchiefs, 12 eye bandages, 6 chin bandages, 25 pillow cases, 10 surgical caps, 50 milk jug covers, 1 pair surgical stockings, 12 pairs socks, 50 tray cloths, 16 shirts, 22 suits pyjamas, books and magazines, 1 coat, 1 waistcoat, 3 complete suits, collars and 1,000 cigarettes.

TRAMWAY RETURNS.

The following is the approximate statement of the Hongkong Tramway Company's traffic receipts for the week ending December 8, 1917:—

	Receipts for week.	Aggregate for 12 weeks.
This Year: ...	\$12,051	\$659,661
Last Year: ...	12,227	698,684
Increase: ...		
Decrease: ...	176	39,003

were in the same place, both were like lightning and each of them was sufficient to give Atkinson his quietus. It would not be true to say that it was a good fight. It was too much like an exhibition bout that has ended disastrously for a youth who under-estimates his fellow-boxer. The contest was far too easy for Young Ahearn, and it makes one long to see a fight with Ahearn and a foe who could give him something like a run.

Other Contests.

In the six round light-heavyweight contest, Gunner Emberton made mince-meat of Stoker Barclay and, had not the fight been stopped, would have secured a knock-out in the fourth round. Barclay was beaten at every turn. The draw between P. O. Harris and Seaman Davies was about the most wishy-washy stuff we have seen in Hongkong for a long time. Beyond a few neck-warmers there was nothing to make the audience feel they were not watching a couple of rabbits playing at sparring, and doing it badly at that.

Corporal Stubbs in his match with Stoker James made as good a show as he was able. He is an extremely plucky youth, but James will not do much if he does not cease being so magnum inop. The match was a draw, but James could have knocked out Stubbs any time he liked after the first three rounds.

A. B. Donnahue should have been given a win against Sapper Lewin but somehow judgment went astray last night and he did not get it. He chased Lewin all over the ring and gave considerable punishment. Lewin has a good right-hand, but it is a shame to rely wholly on that as he did. About the best advice that could be given to him is to have that left arm of his massaged. It might have been withered for all the use he made of it. The fight was a weary draw.

Sapper Rille might be a bit of an acrobat and all that, but it would have pleased everybody better if he had given a separate and distinct turn. We are not hinting at all that he has not the pluck of a giant, but his exhibition would have been far better appreciated if he had not adulterated it with clownish antics. Stoker Welch knocked him down numerous times for all sorts of counts, until at length he was made to take the count in the fifth round.

Sapper Smith appeared again in a fight with Ob. Stoker Lee Smith, since he was last before the public, seems to have improved somewhat and he gave quite a decent showing last night. The two men were well matched but there was not a pin to choose between them, and a draw was rightly given.

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The Oxford correspondent of the Manchester Guardian writes:—

The representatives of the family of the late George M. Smith, Esq., M.A., the originator and publisher of the "Dictionary of National Biography," having transferred to the University the whole of the existing stock and copyright of the dictionary, with a view to its being maintained and continued as one of the publications of the University Press, a decree was submitted to Convocation this afternoon recording the thanks of the University for the generous gift.

The Dean of Christchurch, in submitting the decree, said that Mr. George Smith, by carrying through his "Dictionary of National Biography" on the scale and in the manner he adopted, had filled a gap in English historical literature in a sumptuous way, and had provided a pattern which any great nation might be glad to follow. There was no doubt the gift did the University great honour. They were invited to continue a work splendidly begun, and it was clear from the terms of the gift how great was the confidence of the donors in the University. They did not, as benefactors sometimes did, impose onerous and detailed conditions. They asked that the University should publish the work only through the University Press. They asked that every volume in the future should bear on the title page the honoured name of the founder of the dictionary, and they asked that the University should maintain the issue of the work in the future "with due regard to its continuity and completeness and the literary and scientific standard attained by its original founder and by its editors and authors."

It was too soon as yet to put forward any detailed plans for the future of the work, but the delegates of the press had invited the help of the Regius Professor of History, Professor Firth, apart from his special claims in the field of scientific history, had had a long connection with the dictionary. The book came to the University Press without any commitments of a y kind. He hoped that in their hands it would have a prosperous future, and that it would continue to

perform for the nation the great service the original idea of which they owed to the enterprise and the imagination of one public-spirited citizen.

The decree was passed without a division amidst applause. Representatives of the family—George Murray Smith and Ethel Sarah Murray Smith, the donors—were present.

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1 "Brandy, Martell's XXX	Quart
2 "Whisky, King George IV or Perfection	
2 "Port, Tawny Dry	
2 "Claret, St. Julien	Quart
1 "Gin, Old Tom or Dry "D.O.L."	
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SHIPPING NEWS.

The title of "Captain." The use of the word "captain" is very general in the English language. There are captains in the army and Navy, captains of football teams, captains in the Boys' Brigades, and captains in the many uniformed corps of women which sprang into existence upon the outbreak of the war. Yet curiously enough, the class with whom the name is most frequently associated, viz., the masters of merchant vessels, can lay no legal claim to the title. It is accorded to them in courtesy only. This has always been somewhat of a grievance to the certificate men of the Merchant Service, who maintain that their profession, exacting as it does a long and arduous apprenticeship, costly training, physical and mental abilities of the highest, and carrying with it such a heavy weight of responsibility, deserves in return a distinct rank and recognised title. The Mercantile Marine Service Association has recognised this fact for years, and it is of interest to note the recent correspondence between the Admiralty and the Board of Trade by the secretary:—"Sir, I am desired by the council of this association, the senior representative body of the British shipmasters and officers, to state that they have received a communication from one of its members containing the following statement, viz.:—'On my way across, I heard that the Government had so far recognised services of the Mercantile Marine as to grant 'masters' the title of 'captain' as a right, and also to rank equal with captains of the Royal Navy, and I am to inquire if there are any real grounds for such a statement, or if the subject is at present, or has at any time, been under the consideration of the Board of Trade. May I add that such an announcement, if correct, would be received with great satisfaction by British shipmasters whose services to their country have proved of so valuable a character during the war—I am, yours faithfully, Signed, Thomas Scott, Secretary.' Replies were received from both departments, but that of the Admiralty may be quoted in full as being most comprehensive:—"Sir, With reference to your letter of the 27th ultimo inquiring whether the title of 'captain' has been conferred on masters of the Mercantile Marine, I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you that no action has been taken by the Admiralty with a view to a change in the title or status of these officers. In inserting in the 'London Gazette' the names of masters to whom honours have been awarded it has been the practice of this department, as a matter of courtesy, to follow the custom of the Merchant Service and to refer to these officers as captains, and possibly this has given rise to the report to which you refer. I am, Sir, your obedient servant (Sgd.) (H. Walker). It is an old and true saying that 'Coming events cast their shadows before,' and the council of the association are consequently hopeful that as masters of merchant vessels are officially designated 'captains' by the 'powers that be,' the day is not far distant when the title will become general."

"Commented for Good Services." Some time ago representations were made by the Mercantile Marine Service Association to the Admiralty with a view to obtaining some tangible recognition for those members of the Mercantile Marine who were "commended by his Majesty the King for good services." The argument, advanced by the Admiralty, that the simple notification in the "Gazette" was sufficient carried no weight with the council of the association, who were only too well aware that very often the "Gazette" never came under the notice of the relatives of those who were so honoured, whilst the men, being away on active service, were not always in a position to see it. The winners of the V.O., D.S.O., and D.S.O. had their decorations to testify in after years to their prowess in the time of danger. Why not then, give some tangible evidence to the men who had been commended? It is gratifying to note that this is now being done, and a member of the association, who had recently been "commended," received the following letter from the Admiralty:—"Sir, I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to forward herewith a certificate showing that you were commended for good services in the London Gazette."

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REUTERS' TELEGRAMS.

(Continued from Page 1.)

THE ITALIAN FRONT.

French Troops in Action.

London, December 10.
 Reuter's correspondent with the French forces in Italy telegraphs: The first shot between Frenchmen commanded by General Duchesne and the Austrians has been exchanged on the sector which the French have taken over. It is one of the most exposed and most dangerous of the whole front, and a strong-hold of the utmost importance. The defensive zone is being thoroughly organized on the same scale as in France.

Anglo-French Positions Bombarded.

London, December 10.
 Reuter's correspondent at the Italian Headquarters reports: The Austro-Germans are continuously bombarding the positions occupied by the Anglo-French troops, especially in the Montello Hills, where the British are encamped. No particular object apparently is being served.

GERMANS NOT WANTED.

A New York Waterfront Order.

Mr. James M. Power, United States Marshal for the Eastern District of New York, has issued an order closing the waterfronts of Brooklyn and Staten Island to all Germans. The new order will affect several thousand enemy aliens who are employed or reside within the half-mile limit. The new order supersedes all previous rules, and revokes all permits granted to Germans permitting them to work or reside within the half-mile zone. While no official statement has been made as to the reason for the issuance of this order, it is believed that it is due to the recent waterfront fires.

Marshall Power has written to each concern doing business within a half-mile of the Brooklyn or Staten Island waterfront, notifying them that they must discharge all enemy aliens now in their employ. The letter reads as follows:—

"You will please take notice that on and after November 1, 1917, no German aliens will be allowed to work or visit the waterfront in the Eastern District of New York. This rule affects all German alien permits or not. A representative of this office and agents of the Department of Justice will visit the docks from time to time after this date, and all enemy aliens found will be immediately apprehended and removed to a place of internment. I send this notice to you that you may have time to make such arrangements as are necessary in the discharging of German aliens in your employ."

Many of the firms which will be affected by the new order are engaged in shipbuilding and ship-repairing. Several hundred Germans are employed in these shipyards. A considerable amount of Government work is being done at the yards, and only recently a man believed to be a German was discovered on a Government vessel under suspicious circumstances.

"There are many reasons why I have decided to take this drastic action relative to allowing German aliens to continue their employment along the waterfront," said Marshall Power, when questioned about the new regulations. "They have kept this office and Government service busy of late running down all sorts of rumours. We have found it necessary to intern a number of these waterfront workers, also, and after due consideration I have decided that the best way to handle the situation is to clear them away from the waterfront entirely."

"If these men are the good mechanics that they profess to be, they will not find it difficult to get other employment. It is also my opinion that we will be better off generally if the work of reconstructing German ships into transports to carry our troops across the sea is handled by Americans solely. We can feel sure about one thing, and that is that no alien enemies will have anything to do with the work on these transports hereafter."

Already the regulations governing the activities of enemy aliens along the waterfront of Manhattan are as stringent as they can be made, according to Mr. Thomas D. McCarthy, Marshal of the Southern District of New York. No enemy aliens can be employed in any capacity along the waterfront, he said, and none can travel on ferries or other craft except under conditions made

SURRENDER OF JERUSALEM.

A Great Historical Event.

The following telegram has been received by the Officer Administering the Government from the Secretary of State:—
 "According to official news of December 10th, Jerusalem was surrendered to General Allenby on December 9th, after successful operations by our army in Palestine against enemy positions, which encircled the Holy City. British Officers, accompanied by British, French, Italian and Indian Mahomedan Guards, are on their way to safeguard the city, and the Holy Places. I am confident that this great historical event will be greeted with satisfaction throughout the Empire."

LONG.

The following reply is being sent:—

"Your telegram of December 10, reporting the surrender of Jerusalem, has been received with the greatest satisfaction by the whole community in this Colony. Through their representatives in the Executive and Legislative Councils, they desire to convey to His Majesty's Government and to General Allenby and his Army their warmest congratulations on this splendid and historical achievement in the successful campaign in Palestine."

CANTON NEWS.

Our Canton correspondent writes under date of December 10 as follows:—

When the s.s. Kwong Lee was commandeered by the Government, without the China Merchants Company being notified, for the purpose of carrying troops to Swatow, the captain strongly protested, saying that he was under the orders of his Company as the captain of a passenger boat and he could not therefore allow the ship to be used by soldiers and to pass through a dangerous zone. Thereupon the Government ordered him either to leave the ship or to remain under the Government's protection until another captain arrived. The captain, however, still refused to comply with the Government's order and says he must await instruction from his Company. The authorities are now threatening him, and he has asked the British Consul for advice.

The 34th Battalion has left Canton by the Canton-Kowloon Railway for Shek Lung, en route to Onn Chow.

A report from Tin Pak states that the notorious bandit, Onai Lung-nai, has collected a force of 2,000 strong and within a space of ten days has looted scores of villages.

The Colony's Death Rate. The returns of the death rate in the Colony show that during the week ended November 18 the rate was 22.2 per thousand per annum, as against 22.9 for the corresponding week of last year, and that for the week ended November 25 the rate was 22.9 against a rate last year of 25.4.

necessary by their employment. The entire Manhattan waterfront is now patrolled by agents of the Government.

FROM THE PULPIT.

Strength and Tenderness.

Notes of a sermon by the Rev. J. Kirk Macdonald at Union Church on Sunday evening:—

"A bruised reed shall He not break, and smoking flax shall He not quench, till He send forth judgment unto victory."—Matthew 12/20.

This is part of the fair picture which the evangelist, in words taken from Isaiah, gives of Jesus our Saviour. It shows us a wise combination of strength and tenderness—an extremely delightful coalescence wherever we meet it. We are too much given to associating strength with roughness, not to say brutality. The strong man, according to the Nietzschean philosophy, whose, though not under that name, has been by no means confined to Germany, is he who strides roughshod over all that may be in his way. That is a thoroughly neurotic conception, which finds natural vogue among moral degenerates like the Prussian Junkers, but is utterly opposed not only to Christianity but to the better instincts of our common humanity. The truly strong are not seldom the remarkably kindly. Sure of themselves, they are considerate of others. You may often see some huge, rugged-looking man handle a babe with more tenderness and more natural skill than many a trained nurse, and that homely illustration applies all round. It is not the saintliest characters who are the most censorious, not those who make fewest mistakes who are loudest in condemning others. In the sickroom the best physician is one who knows what illness is, yet has not been unnerved by it. So in spiritual things the best helper is one who understands our temptations and doubts but has won his own way through them. The Saviour we have in Christ is "a man tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin," of whom it can be said that in tenderness He does not break the bruised reed nor quench the smoking flax, whilst in strength it belongs to Him to "send forth judgment unto victory." He is indeed a conqueror, but not of the kind who drive on with violence to their ends; "He shall not strive nor cry aloud, neither His voice be heard in the streets," it is written here. But His gentleness is not from any lack of strength, rather it is the outflow of His conscious strength, as His forgiveness is the outflow of His purity. He is the strong Shepherd who gathers the lambs in His arms and carried them in His bosom, sword in hand to the foe in front but all protecting care to the little ones and the unarmed women who followed in the pilgrimage. In the narrative before us it is told that Jesus had been followed into retirement by a crowd of needy folk. He healed them all, but charged them to say nothing about it. They gathered around Him, these poor crushed fragments of human kind, for whom life appeared to hold nothing, in whom its flame was burning low.

All His life the "strong Son of God" was magnetic to weakness and sorrow. The lame, the blind, the impotent, they came in numbers, and none were turned away. Everything was done for them, but always quietly and without parade. The mightiest forces are often the least obtrusive. Tempest-blown breakers, bursting on the cliff create a stir and compel attention, but every 12 hours of our lives occurs a far vaster manifestation of power in the great quiet tides which heave into every creek and harbour the world around:—

"Such a tide as moving seems asleep,
 'Too full for sound or foam,'
 Such was the vast unfathomable sea" of our Saviour's love and mercy, too full for sound or foam, great enough simply to be and to do, strong and sure enough in truth and grace to conquer in the quietness, and still moving on inexhaustibly in the strength which shows itself by healing and comfort rather than by destruction. The "bruised reed" is there by the water's edge amongst

the others, miles of them around the lake, millions throughout the marsh. Reeds, reeds, plenty of reeds, plentiful as men and women and swarming children in China, in India, yes or the overgrown cities of Britain or America. Not much value in a reed any way, and none whatever in this one, bruised and bent and willing. So it appears to the casual passer-by, who breaks it off without a thought, except perhaps that he is making a quicker end of something which has had its day and now is but a disfigurement in its corner.

But there passes one who is not just casual on his way through life, a poet, a thinker, who takes a closer look at what he may chance on by the wayside, and see larger meanings in little things than most of us. And he keeps back the busy hand that was about to break off the broken reed. How came it to be broken? he asks. It stood exposed, alone. It had to take the first force of the wind, may be give shelter to some other reed behind it. I will not make an end of it, says the reflecting traveller; who knows but it may yet recover and stand upright, and any way why destroy what bit of life there is? Any careless hand can break down, but not all the skill and science of this world can remake even the vestige of vitality which subsists in a broken reed. Now that is a wise way of thinking. It is not merely fanciful, for we see here how it helped the deep-thinking prophet to his inspired description of even the chosen servant of God, the Christ, the Saviour of mankind. And how many of us human creatures who need His saving are like the bruised reed? It stands in one's thoughts for those who have, so to put it, been hard hit one way or another by the happenings of life.

The readiest illustration at the moment is of course the man who has suffered disablement in the course of duty through this devastating war. Bruised and bent he is, and so through life may have to remain.

But could we conceive of any so wicked and so brutal as to wish the maimed life out of the way? On the contrary, if we as a nation should fail to look after the man for the rest of his days we had the better finally stop calling ourselves Christian, if we should fail to do for him the best that can be done, help him to help himself, make the most of whatever capacities are left him, cherish whatever remains to him, and preserve it in comfort as long as possible. Well, in the same spirit would the Lord deal with whoever is hard hit in any way. The man, for instance, for whom temptation has been too much. He has fallen to the blow and is bruised in spirit. He despises himself, and the devil has a second square always waiting for the man he has brought to the point of despising himself, that is to despair of himself.

What hope, he thinks, can there be for a good-for-nothing like him? He feels he cannot stand upright, cannot hold his own. He feels that others despise him too. The very men who have led him, wrong look down on him. That, truly, is a bit of the devil's own spirit to coax and "rag" and all but force men with wills honest strong into wrong ways, and then turn round and laugh at them. However, there is One at least who does not despise the bruised reed, nor despair of it. And, hard though the world may be, there are in it not a few with something of the spirit of the Master, willing to hope and help if they are given the chance. The church has not forgotten its mission—though it seems to be the fashion to do nothing but find fault with it. It has its faults, but its door has never yet been closed upon the penitent, and to this day the preached gospel is held truly forth in Christ's great name to every soul in whose heart it is, to arise and go unto the Father.

"The smoking flax He shall not quench." Strictly it is the dimly burning wick, the strip of linen rag in the earthen oil lamp, not a brilliant illumination at the best, and when it waxes dim sufficient only to render darkness visible. The flame has all but died down and only a charred end remains. The natural impulse is to snuff it right out, for while it

THE SPITTING HABIT.

A Bankruptcy Court Incident.

The habit of expectoration among the Chinese drew forth a strong rebuke by the Chief Justice (Sir William Rees Davies) this morning in the Bankruptcy Court.

During the hearing of one of the cases, the Official Receiver (Mr. H. A. Nisbet) informed his Lordship that a Chinese, sitting in the witness seats, had been spitting in Court. Mr. Nisbet added "I have told him not to do it and he has just been and done it again."

His Lordship had the man called forward and said to the interpreter:—"Tell him that this Court is not a place to spit in. It is a beastly habit and I am not going to allow it in my Court. Ask him if he understood that he was told not to do it again?"

The interpreter spoke to the man and later informed his Lordship that the man denied that he had spat a second time.

The offender was then allowed to resume his seat.

No Infected Rats. During the week ended November 24, 2,129 rats were caught and examined in the Colony and during the following week 2,182 were caught. None were found to be infected.

gives no light its small 'far from pleasing. Now there are souls among us not unlike the dimly burning wick; there are times indeed when any of us may think spiritual vitality is running low. "Let your light shine," you are exhorted, and you only wish it could be so, but feel as if there were no shine left in you, but only a dying glimmer like to go spark out. You cannot perhaps tell how it is, but so it is. From one cause or another the current seems slow and feeble, and you are unable to receive it. And I suppose we are all apt to be impatient of the smoking flax, particularly under the influence of some of the tendencies of the time. We are getting used to electric lighting, which is either full on or not at all, and that is how we like things. But it seems the Lord has the patience which we have not—does not put out a hasty hand to quench the dimly burning wick, rather would guard and cherish, and redouble its reservoir of oil in ways of His own which we would not think of. Be not hasty, with yourself or any other. Pray and persevere. Make the most of whatever remains, and do not forget that the patience of Christ is not that of weakness but of conscious conquering strength, which has hope for things frail and ready to perish, because it has the will and the power to remake and restore.

A recent book by Mr. Hilaire Belloc is a series of imaginative sketches attempting to convey scenes from past history as they might have appeared to eyewitnesses. One of these is entitled "The Christian," and is laid in the days of the early martyrdom. The character portrayed is not that of the traditional rejoicing, triumphant saint, fearing nothing, and enduring to the end in high spiritual exaltation. It is a shrinking, timid, poor-spirited man, who knows but little of Christian teaching and cannot give much reason for such faith as is in him. In the arena his lot is drawn against a skilled gladiator against whom he can make no sort of struggle for his poor life, so he perishes in ridicule and contempt. Not a heroic figure, far indeed from it. Not the typical figure either, but still a type of not a few of whom in their place the Christian gospel has no need to be ashamed. For though the ill-taught, shrinking, unheroic soul could not endure with the lustre of exulting triumph, he did endure somehow, and may be there is most of heroism after all in the feeble confession of one who has, as it were, but touched the hem of the garment. And anyway the Lord Himself is not ashamed of the weak who hang upon Him, the helpless who have Him and none other for their support and succour. For of Him it was said it is the blessed characteristic that the bruised reed He does not break, the smoking flax He will never quench.

BANKRUPTCY COURT.

This Morning's List of Cases.

His Lordship Sir William Rees Davies, sat in Bankruptcy Court this morning, when there were several interesting cases before the Court.

A Receiving Order Granted. Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, on behalf of the petitioning creditor, asked for a receiving order to be made against the Tan Kiat firm. He stated that the act of bankruptcy was a notice suspending payment. He called the creditor, who stated that he was originally owed \$3,000 of which \$2,500 had been paid off. A notice suspending payment had been issued by the debtor firm and it was because of the balance of \$500 that the order was being asked for.

The order was granted.

A Legal Point.

A petition was made by Mr. W. B. Hind, on behalf of a petitioning creditor, for a receiving order against Chan Siu-sang. Mr. Hind stated that he had been informed by the Official Receiver that the petition would be opposed. The position was that the debtor carried on business as a dealer in old newspapers, but the Government sometime ago passed a Regulation restricting the export of old newspapers from the Colony and so the price of the old newspapers had gone down. Practically the only asset of the firm was some contracts for the sale and purchase of newspapers, and those contracts involved the expenditure of \$130,000, whereas the value of the papers would only be now \$110,000, leaving a shortage of \$20,000. Although there were no substantial assets at the present time for distribution, there would very possibly be some at a future time, especially if the Government removed the present restriction.

A good deal of argument took place as to whether an order could be made on such a chance of future assets, his Lordship saying he felt very much inclined to refuse it. The Court must be satisfied that there was a reasonable possibility of assets.

Mr. Hind said it was simply a question of tonnage, and it was only because old newspapers were such bulky things that they had been discriminated against for more important articles.

The Official Receiver thought it might be equally well argued that the debtor had a chance of winning the Champion Sweep at the next Races and that there was, therefore, a possibility of assets.

After further discussion, his Lordship adjourned the matter until the next Bankruptcy Court to consider the points.

A Bankrupt's Discharge.

The Official Receiver, in the case of an Indian, named Juman Khan, applied for the discharge of the bankrupt. He stated that the debtor had paid forty per cent of his liabilities and was soon going to pay a further twenty per cent. The bankruptcy was attributed to misfortune—expenses consequent upon the death of the debtor's mother. Regular instalments had been paid, and the debtor's conduct was very satisfactory. He asked for an immediate discharge.

His Lordship granted the application.

PIANO RECITAL.

There was a crowded attendance at the Helena May Institute last evening, when Mr. Desmond Fuller gave the second of his series of pianoforte recitals in aid of the Prisoners of War Fund, which should materially benefit from the collection taken. The programme submitted was of a varied character, though most of the pieces were of the lighter order, calling for delicate and expressive treatment. Each and all of the items were played with deep understanding and appreciation of the theme in hand, especially "Romance," Arensky's "Arabesque," Bach's "Prelude," Moskowski's "Caprice Espagnole." During the evening Mr. Fuller announced that January 14 he intended giving some popular selections.

A SOLICITOR'S CONDUCT.

Chief Justice on "a Disgraceful Scandal."

The Chief Justice (Sir William Rees Davies) made some very strong comments in the Bankruptcy Court this morning relating to the conduct of a former well-known Hongkong solicitor, Mr. E. M. Toser.

The case in which the matter arose was the public examination of an aged Chinese named Ma Pak-to, who in reply to questions by the Official Receiver (Mr. H. A. Nisbet) said that he was now living at 31, Peking Road, Kowloon. He was formerly a comrade to Mr. E. M. Toser, and the total amount of his indebtedness was about \$8,000. Between five and six thousand dollars of this amount was for office expenses of Mr. Toser. That money Mr. Toser borrowed from him from time to time, and the debtor also paid the rent of the office premises. He was also owed 27 months' wages, at the rate of \$150 a month. There was also a sum of \$340 which he had paid as a guarantee that the rent of the office would be paid.

His Lordship:—Have you ever applied to Mr. Toser for the money since he left the Colony?—I have no trace of him, and do not know where he is.

His Lordship:—I think it is a disgraceful scandal that a solicitor practising in the Supreme Court of this Colony should be guilty of such conduct. I don't know where he is now.

The Official Receiver:—He is in Singapore, I think.

His Lordship:—Then all I can say is that my words should be conveyed to him; I am very much inclined to send the matter Home to the Incorporated Law Society of England.

The Official Receiver:—Perhaps your Lordship would like me to communicate with the Official Assignee in Singapore?—Yes, I would. And I will send the matter Home to the Incorporated Law Society so that should he return to practice in England they will have an opportunity of dealing with him. To get an unfortunate clerk to pay wages, to be a guarantee for him, and to pay his rent, and then to go away and leave the man in a state of bankruptcy is most disgraceful.

Replying to the Official Receiver, the debtor said that he deposited \$500 with Mr. Toser as a guarantee, but Mr. Toser had spent that. It was first of all agreed that he should pay \$2,000 as a guarantee as comrade, but only \$500 was paid on account. As Mr. Toser was not able to defray his expenses he asked him (debtor) to finance him from time to time.

The Official Receiver:—If you obtained payment of this money would you be solvent?—Certainly. I should have plenty of money if I were able to get that back.

His Lordship:—What are you doing now?—At the present time I am a broker.

The Official Receiver said that as this was clearly a case of misfortune he did not propose to ask any further questions. He would like the examination closed.

His Lordship ordered the examination closed and, addressing the debtor, said:—I am very sorry for you and wish I could help you.

Bath Waters for Disabled Men.

The Bath City Tribunal heard an application by the military for a review of the conditional exemption granted to Mr. John Haxton (35), B.L. director of the baths. Mr. G. T. Cooke, chairman of the Baths Committee, urged that Mr. Haxton was doing more valuable national work at the baths than he could do elsewhere. It was better that he should be engaged advising and curing soldiers, who were thus able to return to the fighting zone, than doing any other work. In addition to the officers and men who had hitherto been treated free of cost, the Government were asking them to treat disabled soldiers and were proposing to house the men in Bath for that purpose. The military application was dismissed.

COLLEGE OF NURSING.

State Registration and Higher Standards.

The nursing profession, which has rendered as splendid service during the war as any of the skilled professions, is at last to have a definite organization of its own. The Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley, whose position as chairman of the British Red Cross Society has brought him into close touch with the needs of the profession, conceived some time ago the idea of establishing a College of Nursing. This College has now been founded, and seven thousand trained nurses are already on the register. Its principal objects are to secure State registration for the trained nurse, to raise the standard of training, to establish lectureships and scholarships, and in every way to promote the advancement of the profession.

In a word, as Sir Arthur explained in an interview with a representative of the *Observer*, the College of Nursing is to do for the nursing profession what the Royal College of Surgeons and the Royal College of Physicians do for the members of those two professions.

"There existed," he said, speaking of the origin of the College, "a great need for organizing the profession, and especially for standardizing the training and making the certificates in the various training schools of equal value. I discussed the matter first of all with our matron-in-chief, Miss Swift. She brought a few other matrons of leading training schools to talk over the matter, and thus there gradually evolved the idea of the College of Nursing. We have gone on quietly during the year forming our register of nurses, on which there are now nearly eight thousand trained nurses."

"The central body will be here in London. There will be a suitable building, with lecture halls, examination rooms, a club for nurses, and, probably, if we can arrange it, a residential block. The College will be the central headquarters of the nursing profession. Boards have already been established in Scotland and Ireland. The best account, indeed, of the object for which the College was founded is contained in a speech made by Miss Vera Matheson, the secretary of the Irish Board. To her the words 'College of Nursing' sound, she said, more inspiring than any number of societies or associations."

"They invoke a mental picture, because our profession is one of service and embodies some of the highest ideals of humanity. Those of us who think at all must feel that it should have some outward expression, apart from our own work as individuals, worthy of those ideals. Some of us find it in our training schools, but hospitals are obliged to devote their money primarily to their patients, and there is seldom any surplus."

"What we want is a universal concrete expression of the ideals which are at the heart of our profession. And I most earnestly hope that in the course of time we shall see in London a building which shall be the centre of nursing education, where examinations will be held, where there will be special lectures—not only medical men, but specially trained nurses giving free courses of lectures—where nurses can enter for special scholarship and a multiplicity of other desirable things, where everything will be of the very best, and where there will be up-to-date professional libraries of the newest books and the latest ideas, where all the nursing papers can be read and information and advice obtained about everything connected with nursing."

And I believe also that in that building, to establish centres in different parts of the kingdom, the great possibilities not only for the large provincial towns of England, but for Belfast and Dublin and Cork, and any other centre where nurses are anxious to make the most of their opportunities and to co-operate for the good of all."

"It may be urged in criticism," Sir Arthur remarked, "that war time is not the right time to undertake the work. As a matter of fact if we allow the present opportunity to slip we shall never get another. The eyes of the public are turned on the nursing profession, and, moreover, there is a very large body of semi-trained nurses, V.A.D.s and others, who have done splendid work during the war, and many of them will probably want to continue nursing after the war. It is absolutely necessary that what constitutes a trained nurse should be clearly defined and established, and we think it is only by means of an organization like the College of Nursing that this can be done. The register of the College is formed entirely of nurses who have had a certain amount of training, and a high standard of efficiency is laid down by the rules and regulations. As will be seen by anyone who looks at the list of the Council, it is very largely represented by the big training schools. This is the first time that a movement of this nature has received the sanction of a great number of the schools."

Under existing arrangements the Council of the College, which is at present a nominated Council, becomes elective next year. In March, 1918, one-third of the present Council retire, and the members of the College elect their successors. In each succeeding year one-third of the Council will similarly retire, and the College is therefore established on a purely democratic basis."

Sir Arthur mentioned also another great need for the nursing profession, namely, a fund, in addition to the National Pension Fund, for assisting nurses who break down in health. "It would," he said, "be a splendid thing if a fund could be established in connection with the College, and we believe the nation, in a spirit of thankfulness for all that the nurses have done during the war, would readily respond to any appeal that might be made for this object."

COMMERCIAL NEWS.

No Swedish Matches.

The Swedish Chamber of Commerce for the United Kingdom, London, in receipt of a cable from the Swedish Board of Trade, Stockholm, dated October 2, to the effect that the following articles have been added to the list of goods which are now prohibited for exportation from Sweden to all countries, and also in transit through Sweden:—Iron plates and sheets cut or uncut perforated, essential vegetable oils not specially mentioned, matches of all descriptions, Bengal lights in match form.

France and British Coals. The following letter, signed "Coal Merchant," appeared recently in a French contemporary, and illustrates the difficulty that is being experienced by buyers in the endeavour to secure British coals owing to the numberless regulations in both France and Great Britain connected with the coal supply:—"We have too much of Coal. It cannot be otherwise because, to receive it from England, it is sufficient for the French importer to—1. Ask the Bureau National des Charbons at Paris for a permit of importation. 2. When the permit is obtained, the order for division which is pinned to it, is sent to the English supplier, who in his turn, 3. Obtains from the English Customs House two printed forms (demands for licences), which contain 23 questions, to which answers must be given, and then, 4. Remits said printed forms to the local committee at the port of shipment, with 6. Two sheets of information, containing 41 questions. 7. The local committee sends the demands for licences to London, but only, 8. If the committee has been advised by the Bureau Francaise des Charbons in London that the supplier who makes the demand is properly authorized by Paris to ship the coal which the French importer wants from him. (Without this advice, which takes several days to come from Paris via London to the port of shipment, nothing can be done) 9. If all goes well the local committee, as stated above, sends the demands for licence to London, to the War Trade Department, and the shipper eventually some days later receives the "scrap of paper," which permits him to 10. Apply to the Customs House at the port of shipment, and to there pass the necessary papers to be able to ship this coal. Unfortunately if, for one reason or another, he is compelled to complete the cargo of this steamer with large coal while his licence is for through coal. To be able to make such a substitution he must ask the permission of the local committee, which transmits his request to the War Trade Department in London, which, in its turn, advises the Customs House in London, and this latter advises the Customs House at the port of shipment that the substitution can be made. It is pleasant to delay steamers for a "scrap of paper." 11. The Collector of Customs at the port of shipment on production of the licence gives permission to load the coal, but only, 12. After the officer representing the Admiralty has initialled the back of the printed forms. And this while many of the collieries in England, from which England itself does not want the coal, are stopping several days per week because of the impossibility of clearing the coal they have in waggons. When there was not enough coal in England these measures were perhaps reasonable, but now we cannot deny that the German submarines in sinking vessels do not sufficiently help our civil servants, who are doing their utmost (sic) to inconvenience importers and exporters—let us find them other employment quickly. This would be of service to the country by the economies that could be made and the coal that could be received."

committed the other. They cool still and eyed one another for a moment without speaking, and then Pashitch's eyes twinkled, and he said, "Get them to pay you in No. 17; you will find it is the most comfortable."

Mr. Bonar Law's scheme is the simplest yet devised, amounting as it does simply to reckoning a man's wife as being, for the purposes of income-tax, a child of his, and therefore reducing his taxable income by \$25. That this arrangement will confer a solid benefit upon the married man is shown by the following examples of its working:

WIVES AND INCOME-TAX.

New Scheme a Boon to Married Men.

Except by bachelors, Mr. Bonar Law's announcement that he proposes to include in his next Budget a "wife statement" of \$25 in calculating income-tax has been received with hearty approval, says a Home paper. The statement will amount, of course, to a tax on bachelors, which has been widely advocated, particularly in Labour circles, for some time past. The married men's only criticism is that the tax is too small; "but," they add, "the principle is the thing."

America has enjoyed a bachelor tax since 1913, in the form of an income-tax exemption scale so differentiated between the married and the unmarried as to impose an extra charge upon the well-to-do bachelor of \$2 a year.

France and Austria also put a special tax on their unmarried males. Mr. Bonar Law's scheme is the simplest yet devised, amounting as it does simply to reckoning a man's wife as being, for the purposes of income-tax, a child of his, and therefore reducing his taxable income by \$25. That this arrangement will confer a solid benefit upon the married man is shown by the following examples of its working:

Present tax	With wife	per week	allowance	s. d.
Income £3 a week: s. d.				
Bachelor	1 11	1 11		
Man and wife	1 11	0 0		
Man, wife, two children	Nil	Nil		
Income £4 a week:				
Bachelor	3 4	3 4		
Man and wife	3 4	2 3		
Man, wife, two children	2 3	0 1		
Income £5 a week:				
Bachelor	5 7	5 7		
Man and wife	5 7	4 6		
Man, wife, two children	5 7	2 4		

In making the above calculations an abatement of \$10 has been allowed for life insurance, renewals of tools, etc.

WALES AND SERBIA.

War Aims and Strategy in the Near East.

The spirit of Mr. Lloyd George's cordial pledges to Serbia at the recent luncheon to M. Pashitch inspires several articles in the October number of the *Welsh Outlook*, which contains two excellent portraits of the Serbian Premier and of General Miskitch. One contributor to the number complains that military opportunities in the Near East have been neglected, and that "the Serb General Staff, which, in spite of its peculiar knowledge of the country and of the enemy, has never been consulted as to strategy, has been compelled to stand by and watch chance after chance of dealing a decisive blow in the Balkans thrown away."

Mr. David Davies, M.P., in an article on "War Aims and Strategy," follows the same line of criticism, declaring that "the Westerners have had their chance, and they have failed to make it good." The achievement of our war aims, Mr. Davies argues, is inextricably bound up with success in the Balkans as well as in France. He urges that an effective advance from Salonica in the direction of Sofia would bring us astride the main artery of communication between the Central Powers and their Eastern Allies, and would place Turkey and Bulgaria at our mercy. On the ground that this and no other is the real decisive front in the East, he contends that the operations in Palestine and Mesopotamia should be purely defensive, their object being to draw off enemy forces from the vital Balkan positions.

An excellent story is told of M. Pashitch in the course of a brief study of that statesman's career and character. At one time during the reign of the late king, he was imprisoned owing to the machinations of a political opponent who was then in power. A subsequent turn of the wheel caused it to fall to Pashitch's lot to sign the order for the imprisonment of his old enemy on the charge of publishing certain treasonable statements. A few hours later the two Ministers met in the street, the one being escorted to the prison to which he had on a previous occasion

HONGKONG SHARE REPORT.

S—SELLERS; SA—SALES; B—BUYERS; N—NOMINAL.

OFFICIAL PRICES.

BANKS.

MARINE INSURANCES.

Canton

North China

Unions

Yangtzes

China Fires

H. K. Fires

SHIPPING.

Douglases

Steamboats

Indos (Def.)

Indos (Pref.)

Shells

Ferries

REFINERIES.

Sugars

Malabons

MINING

Kailans

Langkats

Raubas

Tronohs

Urals

Oriental Cons.

DOCKS, WHARVES, GODOWNS, &C.

H. K. Wharves

Kowloon Docks

Shai Docks

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.

Centrals

H. K. Hotels

Land Invest.

H'phreys Est.

K'loon Lands

Shai Lands

West Points

Reclamations

COTTON MILLS.

Ewos

Kung Yiks

Shai Cottons

Yangtzepeeps

Orientals

MISCELLANEOUS.

Borneos

China Light & P.

Providents

Dairy Farms

Green Islands

H. K. Electric

H. K. Ice Co.

Ropes

Steel Foundries

Trams, Low Level

Trams, Peak, old

Trams, Peak, new

Laundries

U. Waterboats

Watsons

Wm. Powells

Morning Posts

CORRECTED TO MONDAY TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1917.

BENJAMIN & POTTS.

Share and General Brokers.

Princes Building.

Tel. address: Broker.

EXCHANGE.

SELLING.

T/T

Demand

30 d/s

60 d/s

4 m/s

T/T Shanghai

T/T Singapore

T/T Japan

T/T India

Demand, India

T/T San Francisco

co & New York

T/T Java

T/T Marks

T/T France

Demand, Paris

BUYING.

4 m/s. L/C

4 m/s. D/F

6 m/s. L/C

30 d/s. Sydney & Melbourne

30 d/s. San Francisco & New York

4 m/s. Marks

4 m/s. France

6 m/s. France

Demand, Germany

Demand, New York

T/T Bombay

Demand, Bombay

T/T Calcutta

Demand, Calcutta

Demand, Manila

Demand, Singapore

On Haiphong

On Saigon

On Bangkok

Sovereign

Gold Leaf, per oz.

Bar Silver, per oz.

SUBSIDIARY COINS.

DISCOUNT PER \$100.

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"PERFECT"
Actual Size

Street, in the City of Victoria
Kong,